

How Do You Live the Christian Life???

BEP Theme 2007-2008

Gospel Christianity 2: Practices

**Jesus' most common description for living the Christian life:
"Follow ME"**

September Question

How Do You Follow Jesus??

Jesus' teaching is clear....[the Demands of Discipleship](#)



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

Luke 9:23-25

23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me,

he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life

for me will save it.

25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit

his very self?



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

- Luke 9:23-25** 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must _____ himself and take up his _____ and follow me.
- 24 For whoever wants to _____ his life will lose it, but whoever _____ his life for _____ will save it.
- 25 What good is it for a man to _____ the whole world, and yet _____ or forfeit his very _____?

How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

Luke 13:24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

Matthew 7:13-14 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- Move you into the story with the Jewish audience
- Move the story practically into your heart

Moving you into the story with the Jewish audience

To this rabbi who keeps teaching on the kingdom of God the people ask a popular questions... *“Lord, are only a few going to be saved?”*

“to be saved”...

....to “take your place at the feast in the Kingdom of God” (13:29; Isaiah 25)

Jewish teaching - very restrictive/narrow

...no Gentiles & no impure Jews would be allowed in

Jesus’ response

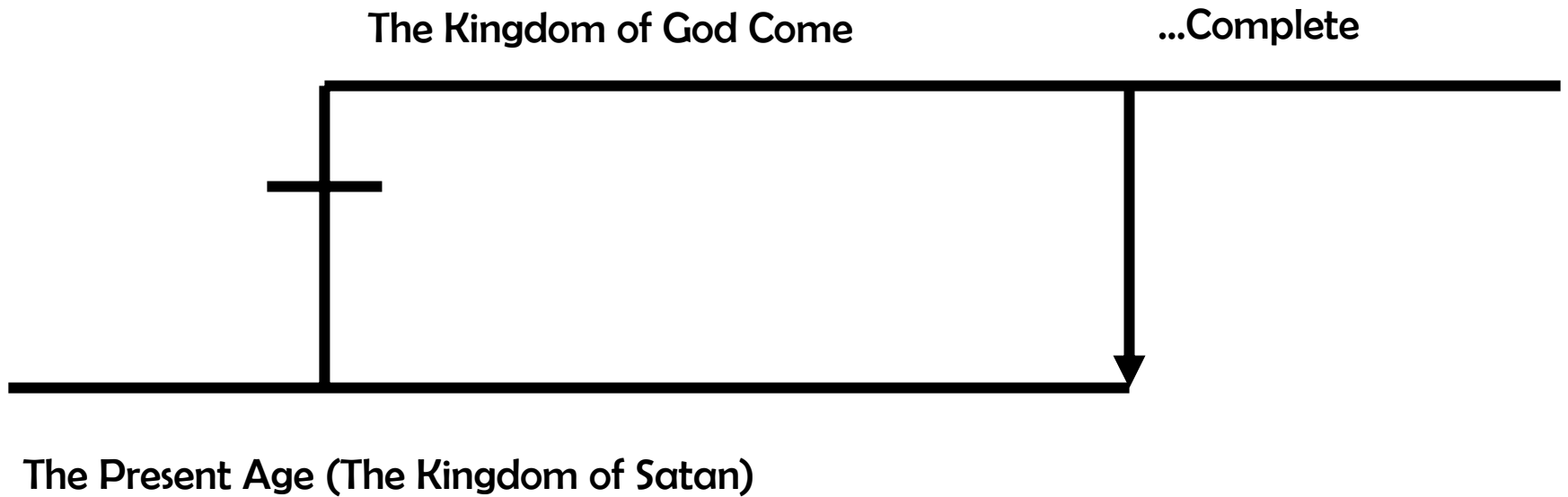
You’re right...entrance into the kingdom is by a narrow door that many will not enter through

You’re wrong...Gentiles will pour in from all directions (13:29)

....your sense of priority will get turned inside-out (13:30)



The Kingdom of God Comes in Two Stages



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

Jesus' response to the question also becomes very personal

Luke 13:24-27...YOU (11x)

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

Demand: Enter through the narrow gate

"I am gate..." (John 10:7)

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

For Jesus the key issue is KNOWING him...not just having a casual connection with him (13:25-27)



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

Demand: Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate

The narrow gate is the entrance to a narrow path (Matt. 7:13-14)

...you must struggle (agonize), wrestle, exert yourself to continue on this path

The demand of “**SERIOUS VIGILANCE**” ...

...watch, be ready, guard, beware



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

The demand of “**SERIOUS VIGILANCE**” ...

...watch, be ready, guard, beware

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *SELF-INDULGENCE*

Luke 21:34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *APPROVAL OBSESSION*

Luke 20:46 "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

The demand of “**SERIOUS VIGILANCE**” ...

...watch, be ready, guard, beware

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *SELF-INDULGENCE*

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *APPROVAL OBSESSION*

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *MONEY SICKNESS*

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

“We consumers have our own doctrine of salvation. All that is required for happiness is more money.”



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

The demand of “**SERIOUS VIGILANCE**” ...

...watch, be ready, guard, beware

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *MONEY SICKNESS*

Jesus warns ...if you are not vigilant in the face of money sickness
in our consumer culture you will start going blind

Luke 11:34-35 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.



Moving the Demands of Discipleship into YOU

How Do You Follow Jesus as part of His Kingdom??

The demand of “**SERIOUS VIGILANCE**” ...

...watch, be ready, guard, beware

Be seriously vigilant in the face of modern *MONEY SICKNESS*

What is the “bad eye”? (Matthew 20:15)

A heart that does not see the mercy of the Master as more precious than money

What is the “good eye”

A heart that sees spiritual reality...that God's mercy and grace are far more valuable than all that money can buy



How Does All This Striving Fit In with Your Teaching on Grace???

Be Vigilant to Cherish what You Have...

...not to Earn what You Don't

You have the *Costly Grace* of Christ crucified for you

Through faith in Christ you stand before God as forgiven and righteous
...This is not the goal of your striving, it is the ground of your striving

You strive, because the treasure of Christ's costly grace is immeasurably more valuable than the pleasures of self-indulgence, or the praise of human approval, or all the possessions money can buy

You have the power of the kingdom life which has broken into you by the gift of His Spirit

You don't strive to get God's favor...you strive with the favor of God's help



How Do You Follow Jesus? The Demands of a Disciple

**“O Lord, give me the grace to do as you command,
and command me to do what you will.”**

Augustine

Your striving is not to earn a victory, but to cherish a victory already won by Christ for you.





Moving you into the story with the Jewish audience

Jesus' ministry looked very much like an Old Testament prophet who came teaching the kingdom of God & performing miracles

But Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God is different

- *The prophets said, "The Kingdom of God is coming"....
...Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God is near, among you, here."*
- *Popular teaching...when the Messiah comes, the Kingdom of God would come in like a freight train*

Jesus teaches the insignificant beginnings of the Kingdom (13:18-21)

- *Popular teaching was that the Messiah would come in overwhelming glory....*

Jesus teaches the Messiah first comes with suffering, death (13:31-33)



The Kingdom of God Come

...Complete



The Present Age (The Kingdom of Satan)